# CHAPTER ONE

#  INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 Background information

Rice also known as paddy is one among the major food crops cultivated in Tanzania. It is the second most important cereal in Tanzania after maize and 90% of all rice production is undertaken by smallholder farmers where it is estimated that about 18% of farming households grow rice and the resulting economic activities for the production of rice contributes about 2.7% to the overall GDP of the country (Sage-el, 2018).

The general trend in rice production has been increasing over time from 1961 to 2016.This has even been enhanced by a further introduction of various policy interventions that have facilitated increase in paddy productivity. Among them are the KILIMO KWANZA declaration, The National Rice development strategy of 2009 and most currently the National Five-Year Development Plan 2016/17-2020/21. KILIMO KWANZA declarative has especially set out to increase the marketable output of agricultural produce for Tanzanian smallholder farmers. The main reason behind is that most of the smallholder’s households depend on agriculture to meet their demands (ESRF, 2014).

Furthermore, National Rice Development Strategy and National Five-Year Development Plan all aim at increasing rice productivity by improving technological adoptions among smallholders; use of improved agricultural inputs and irrigation. Also, to further rice commercialization since as the production of rice is increasing, definitely the surplus will need to be marketed in order to realize income (URT, 2016).